(e) and (f) On March 25, 2005, the US Under Secretary of Defence conveyed that US companies have received approval from the US Administration to respond to the Indian Request for Information (RFI) for the Multi Role Combat Aircraft.

Discussions were held during the visit of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 16 March 2005 on the need for a positive US response to India's growing energy demands, including nuclear energy. During EAM's visit to Washington DC. on April 13-14,2005, India and the U.S. announced an Energy dialogue to be led by U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The three main components are: civil nuclear energy, hydrocarbons and cleaner technologies.

Government's Reaction over Nepal issue

3160. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the latest political developments in Nepal;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to review the existing bilateral treaties between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has so far been taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Government of India is deeply concerned about the situation in Nepal following the dismissal of the multi-party government and imposition of emergency in the country on February 1,2005. We have called for the early restoration to multiparty democracy, immediate release of political leaders and lifting of restrictions on their constitutional rights and removal of media censorship. We have stressed the need and importance of forging a national consensus between the two constitutional forces, namely political parties and constitutional monarchy, effectively deal with the political and economic challenges facing the country;

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to review the existing bilateral treaties between India and Nepal.